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Editorial postscript

Having had a chance to examine Mr Allen's very interesting paper in advance of publication, I took the opportunity of re-examining the series of *Mordellistena* that I took in Nunhead Cemetery in 1992, (*Br. J. Ent. nat. Hist.* 1992; **5**: 189-190). Using Batten's key (*Ent. Gaz.* 1986; **37**: 225-235) they still worked, more or less, to *M. humeralis* (L.), but examination of the dark ridges of the hind tibiae showed that, in fact, they were all specimens of *M. variegata* (F.). It is always galling and embarrassing to have to retract and correct an identification, especially a published one, but Mr Allen's paper should make such events less common in this particular species complex.– RICHARD A. JONES, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.

Notes on finding the larva of *Coleophora aestuariella* Bradley (Lep.: Coleophoridae)

On 3rd October 1981, I found five small and most peculiar-looking *Coleophora* cases feeding upon the ripening seeds of *Suaeda maritima* on the extreme tidal edge of the saltings at Harty, North Kent. They were about 5mm long, very flat-oval and undecorated with debris. A substantial proportion of the cases were strikingly coloured a bright magenta. Whether or not this was a result of hollowing out a purple bract of the foodplant remains to be determined, although it is to be noted that the cases are similarly coloured whether feeding on "red" or "green" plants. Possibly it is caused by a pigment change as the plant dies.

The larvae overwintered in captivity by encasing their cases within a rough silken cocoon between the layers of tissue provided. Further observation is needed under natural conditions to establish whether it buries itself in the mud, similar to *Coleophora clypeiferella* Hufn. and *C. salicorniae* Wocke which escape as adults with the aid of spines present on the underside of the abdomen.

Two males and a single female were subsequently bred between 7th and 24th July 1982 and were described as a species new to science (Bradley, J.D., 1984. *Entomologist's Gazette* **35**: 137-140.– N.F. HEAL, 44 Blenheim Avenue, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NW.